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## **\*\*PHOTO ADVISORY\*\***

### **Sen. Cassis testifies to restore funding to Michigan metroparks**

**February 17, 2006** – State Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, and Laurie Van Pelt, the director of management and budget for the Oakland County executive's office, testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee recently in support of Cassis' legislation to restore funding to Michigan metroparks and other eligible authorities. Senate Bills 965 and 966 address the consequences of the 2004 acceleration of county property tax payments that led to the loss of funding for parks such as the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA). Because of the tax shift, HCMA has lost \$530,000 from its annual budget, which could adversely affect Indian Springs, Stony Creek and Kensington metroparks in Oakland County, as well as airport, park and transportation authorities across the state.

**A photo is available at:**

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